

THE STORY BEHIND

“THE DOCTOR’S BAG – A SENTIMENTAL JOURNEY”

Written several years ago as a special Father’s Day present, this fictional story follows the ever changing relationship between a father and son, from the boy’s adolescence to the age of twenty. What makes this tale unique is the narrative technique author John Schlarbaum uses to convey the highs and lows of the parent-child relationship.

“Each chapter is like a snapshot that deals with one event, on one day, during a different year in the boy’s life. When people look back on their lives, it’s single events over the years that have the most impact on their relationships with family and friends. That’s the case with this story – it’s the individual encounters between Thomas and his son, which affect both of their lives.”

The idea for such a story came after Schlarbaum interviewed his father, Rev. Norman Schlarbaum, on the occasion of the elder’s 75th birthday. During the conversation many aspects of the writer’s father’s life were revealed for the first time, as specific memories

and events were recalled that had personal meaning decades later. *“My father also talked about tiny mementos he had and still cherished, like a baseball pin he’d received in his youth. I realized these items would become family heirlooms, and this thought helped me write the last chapter, when the father makes a final attempt to keep the promise he’d made his son.”*

Ultimately the story is about *a promise made, a promise kept* and that it’s never too late to tell someone you love them. Written with both a child and parent’s sensibilities and emotions in mind, **The Doctor’s Bag** is guaranteed to stir the hearts and minds of all readers.